

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD,  
LOS ANGELES REGION**

**CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 98-018**

**REQUIRING AMERICAN GOLF CORPORATION, CASTLE & COOK, COUNTY  
SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AND MOUNTAINGATE OPEN  
SPACE MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATION, TO CLEANUP AND ABATE THE POLLUTION  
CAUSED BY WASTES RELEASED AT THE MISSION CANYON NO. 6 LANDFILL**

(File No. 60-116)

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region finds:

1. The Mission Canyon #6 Landfill site is located at 1901 North Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, in Section 31, T1N/R15W, S.B.B. & M.
2. The County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, the sole operator of the landfill, conducted landfilling operations from 1971 through 1978, on land leased from Barclay Hollander Corporation. Approximately nine million tons of nonhazardous solid waste were disposed of in Mission Canyon #6 Landfill (together with Mission Canyon #7 Landfill) under the provisions of waste discharge requirements (Resolution No. 60-73) prescribed by this Regional Board on December 8, 1960. These waste discharge requirements covered successive landfill operations in seven parallel canyons, Mission Canyons 1 through 7, as well as in the main Mission Canyon.
3. Current landowners of the site, which is located on Parcels 4493-035-004 and 4493-035-003 of the County of Los Angeles Assessor's Parcel Maps, include American Golf Corporation ("Lot 11"), Castle & Cook (formerly Barclay Hollander Corporation), and the Mountaingate Open Space Maintenance Association ("Lot 12"). American Golf Corporation owns the top deck and upper slopes of the landfill, which is now operated as the Mountaingate Country Club; Cook & Castle own the flat lot located at the toe of the landfill, which is leased to GSF Energy who operates the Mountaingate Landfill Gas Recovery Facility; Mountaingate Open Space Maintenance Association, a local homeowner's association, owns the upslope areas of the landfill which is used for irrigated open space.
4. The landfill is situated in an east-facing canyon tributary to Sepulveda Canyon, and is underlain by nonwaterbearing rocks. Groundwater is present in canyon alluvium, and in weathered and fractured bedrock. Both surface and subsurface drainage from the landfill enters Sepulveda Canyon and eventually flows southward into the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin. Beneficial uses of the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin include municipal, domestic, and agricultural supply, and industrial process and service supply.

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5. Mission Canyon #6 Landfill was inspected on February 24, 1998, by Regional Board staff in conjunction with staff of the City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department. The inspection focused primarily on the maintenance of the landfill cover and drainage controls, and any possible impact the landfill may have or will have on groundwater and surface water quality.
6. During the February 24, 1998, inspection, Regional Board staff observed slumping of the benches, broken down drains, numerous rills, and cracking and saturation of the landfill cover materials. Numerous seeps were observed. A gully, 10-feet deep in areas, and 12-feet wide, bisects the landfill and conveys surface runoff and seep waters down the face of the landfill. Some waste fill is exposed. A mudslide was observed at the toe of the landfill caused during recent storms, further eroding the gully and threatening the operation of the GSF Energy's Mountaingate Landfill Gas Recovery Facility.
7. Ambient air monitoring performed by the City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department staff has detected the pervasive presence of landfill gas above State regulatory standards in gas probes located around the perimeter of the landfill. The odor of landfill gas was present during the February 24, 1998, inspection.
8. Groundwater monitoring wells downgradient of the site indicate the presence of benzene, chlorobenzene, dichlorobenzenes, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, trans-1,2-dichloroethylene, cis-1,2-dichloroethylene, 1,2-dichloropropane, ethyl benzene, methylene chloride, toluene, trichloroethylene, and vinyl chloride, in the groundwater. Some of these pollutants were detected in concentrations which exceed the State Department of Health Services' Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).
9. The Mission Canyon #6 Landfill underdrain discharges water, without a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, to the storm drain system located in Sepulveda Canyon. Benzene, chlorobenzene, dichlorobenzenes, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, trans-1,2-dichloroethylene, cis-1,2-dichloroethylene, 1,2-dichloropropane, ethyl benzene, methylene chloride, perchloroethylene, toluene, trichloroethylene, and vinyl chloride were detected in this water. Some of these pollutants were detected in concentrations which exceed the State Department of Health Services' Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).
10. The release of waste constituents from this landfill may have caused, or threatens to cause, a condition of pollution and nuisance to the groundwaters below, and the surface waters adjacent to, the landfill site.
11. The erosion and slumping observed at the landfill has affected the integrity of the cover and drainage systems, permitting infiltration of precipitation that will increase leachate and gas generation, exacerbate groundwater and surface water pollution, and permit the uncontrolled escape of landfill gases.

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12. Section 13304 of the California Water Code states, in part, that:

"Any person... who has caused or permitted... any waste to be discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be discharged into the waters of the State and creates, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance, shall upon order of the Regional Board clean up such waste or abate the effects thereof or, in case of threatened pollution or nuisance, take other remedial action."

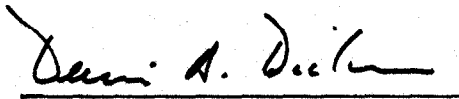
13. This enforcement action is being taken for the protection of the environment and as such is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000. et. seq.) pursuant to Title 14, Section 15321 of the California Code of Regulations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that pursuant to the California Water Code, Section 13304, American Golf Corporation, Castle & Cook, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and Mountaingate Open Space Maintenance Association, individually or collectively shall comply with the following:

1. By March 31, 1998, submit to the Regional Board for Executive Officer approval, an emergency plan, temporary in scope, to stabilize the slopes, drainage and cover at the landfill to prevent infiltration of water into the landfill, contact of surface waters with waste fill, and failure of slopes.
2. By April 30, 1998, file an application with appropriate fees with this Regional Board for an NPDES Permit to discharge the underdrain water to surface waters.
3. By May 31, 1998, submit to the Regional Board for Executive Officer approval, an engineered plan for long-term stabilization of landfill slopes, adequate drainage controls, and cover maintenance at the landfill.
4. By May 31, 1998, submit to the Regional Board for Executive Officer approval, a site characterization study workplan which describes, in detail, groundwater and surface water investigations that are capable of determining 1) the full lateral and vertical extent of the groundwater contamination emanating from the landfill, 2) leachate migration pathways, and 3) any impact the landfill may have on surface waters.
5. Implement the approved site characterization study by July 1, 1998, or 30 days after receipt of written approval by the Executive Officer, whichever is later. A final report detailing the analytical results and conclusions of the site characterization study shall be submitted to this Regional Board for the Executive Officer's approval no later than 120 days after implementation of the study.

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6. By November 1, 1998, submit a remedial cleanup plan, based upon the results of the site characterization study, to the Regional Board for Executive Officer's approval. The plan shall outline the nature and extent of proposed measures to cleanup groundwater and surface waters impacted by the landfill. The plan shall also include a time schedule, acceptable to the Executive Officer, for implementing the cleanup program.
7. All investigations, studies, and plans must be developed and/or conducted by, or under the direct supervision of, a qualified California Registered Geologist, Certified Engineering Geologist, or Registered Civil Engineer.
8. This Order in no way limits the authority of the Regional Board, as contained in the California Water Code, to require additional investigations and cleanups pertinent to this project. This Order may be revised by the Executive Officer as additional information from the project becomes available.
9. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this Order may result in imposition of civil liability against the dischargers, individually or collectively, either by the Regional Board or judicially by the Superior Court, in accordance with Section 13350 et. seq., of the California Water Code and/or referral to the Attorney General of the State of California for such legal action as he may deem appropriate.

  
DENNIS A. DICKERSON  
Executive Officer

March 16, 1998  
DATE